PATENT ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 04148-00006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This amendment is being filed with the divisional application. Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

In the specification:

At page 1, before the first line, insert the sentence -- This is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/351,518, filed July 12, 1999.--

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-25 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.